GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5818
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2003
FACILITIES FOR HANDLOOM/POWERLOOM WEAVERS
S. MURUGESAN

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems of handloom/powerloom workers living without basic facilities of housing, education, etc.;

(b) whether the Government have taken up with the authorities concerned to provide necessary facilities to handloom/powerloom workers and their wards; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)

(a): Yes Sir.

(b) to (c): The Government of India has been implementing various welfare schemes for the handloom workers such as:

Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme: Assistance is provided for construction of a Workshed/Workshed-cum-Housing primarily with the objective of providing a suitable work place to the handloom weavers.

The Health Package Scheme:Weavers are provided financial assistance for the treatment of diseases such as (a) asthma, (b) tuberculosis and inflammation of the alimentary system, (c) maternity benefits to women weavers, (e) payment of additional compensation for permanent measures of family planning; and (f) infrastructure for the primary health care.

Under the Thrift Fund Scheme, a fund in the nature of provident fund for handloom workers is made and an eligible subscriber may get a temporary advance from the fund to meet medical expenses, expenses in connection with marriage and other ceremonies to be performed by him, cost of childrens` education, cost for purchase of a house site etc.

The Insurance Schemes provide for meeting the socio economic obligation of the weavers towards his or her family and protection from various types of contingencies like natural calamity, accidental death etc.

Regarding Powerloom sector, the Government of India is implementing the scheme for Group Insurance for Powerloom workers.The powerloom workers can choose to pay Rs.40/- every year to insure himself for a cover of Rs. 50,000/- on accidental death and upto Rs.25,000/- for partial disability; with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and the central government contributing Rs. 100/- and Rs. 60/- respectively every year. Alternatively, he can choose to pay Rs.130/- per annum to obtain an insurance cover of Rs. 80,000/- on accidental death, Rs. 50,000/- on natural death and a maximum of Rs.50,000/- for permanent disability, with Central Government paying Rs. 150/- and LIC Rs.100/-. Added benefits in the form of an associated scheme of LIC - `Siksha Sahyog Yojana`, under which upto 2 dependent children of the beneficiary studying in the class 9th to 12th are given Rs.300/- per quarter/child as educational allowance based on some transparent selection criterion.